



Connecticut Business & Industry Association

**Testimony of
Jesmin K. Basanti, CBIA
Before the Committee on Commerce
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut
February 19, 2009**

Good Morning Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and other members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Jesmin Basanti, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents approximately 10,000 member companies in virtually every industry and the vast majority of our member companies have fewer than 50 employees.

CBIA has long recognized that regionalization can and does lead to more economical, effective and efficient delivery of services. For this reason we are supportive of the concept found in SB 888, to divide the state into 5 regional economic development districts.

While we appreciate the step to promote efficiency and allow for the state to be able to bid on federal economic development funding grants, we are not supportive of any measure that would increase government bureaucracy at any level. The goal is to reduce or eliminate the obstacles in Connecticut's path to receive this additional assistance, not to make it harder.

Measures that state government can take to give Connecticut a better chance at receiving federal dollars will not only help our business base grow and prosper but will help our state prosper.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our input today.